

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) A call handling method comprising:
receiving an indication of an incoming call to a destination number ("DN"); ~~and~~
accessing a database for a record corresponding to said DN;
determining, based upon information associated with said record, whether call
forwarding is active; and
in response to determining that call forwarding is active, initiating one or more outgoing
calls to one or more an outgoing call to a plurality of forwarding numbers while leaving said
incoming call unanswered.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising, in response to a one
of said one or more outgoing calls ~~one said outgoing telephone call~~ being answered, bridging
said incoming call with said answered outgoing call.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising, prior to said bridging,
qualifying a party answering said outgoing ~~telephone~~ call as a party entitled to receive said
incoming call.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, wherein said DN is associated with a subscriber line, initiating an outgoing call to said subscriber line.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said accessing said database further comprises initiating ~~comprises accessing a database for a record corresponding with said DN and locating~~ said one or more forwarding numbers ~~each forwarding number~~ in said record.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising, where none of said one or more outgoing calls is answered within a predetermined time, accessing said record for an action to take in respect of said incoming call.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said action is forwarding to voice mail and, in response, forwarding said incoming call to voice mail.

8. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said qualifying comprises requesting an input from said party.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said accessing said database further comprises initiating ~~comprises accessing a database for a record corresponding with said DN and locating~~ said one or more forwarding numbers ~~each forwarding number~~ in said record,

and wherein said input is compared with an entry in said record.

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10. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising, where said party answering fails to qualify, bridging said incoming call with a voice mail box associated with said DN.

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11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising, where none of said one or more outgoing calls is answered within a predetermined time, bridging said incoming call with a voice mail box associated with said DN.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of redirecting an incoming telephone call from a calling party to a subscriber comprising:

sensing said incoming telephone call;

accessing a database for a record corresponding to said incoming telephone call;

determining, based upon information associated with said record, whether call forwarding is active, and in response to determination that call forwarding is active, retrieving

forwarding location information from a said database;

locating said subscriber based on said forwarding location information by initiating one or more outgoing telephone calls to corresponding one or more ~~a corresponding one~~ plurality of forwarding locations; and

answering and connecting said incoming telephone call to said subscriber, if said subscriber answers a one of said one or more outgoing telephone calls. ~~is located.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising ~~containing~~ computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to:

receive an indication of an incoming call to a destination number ("DN"); and

access a database for a record corresponding to said DN;

determine, based upon information associated with said record, whether call forwarding is active; and

in response to determining that call forwarding is active, initiate one or more outgoing calls to one or more ~~a outgoing call to a plurality of~~ forwarding numbers while leaving said incoming call unanswered.

14. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 13 comprising ~~containing~~ computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to in response to a one of said one or more outgoing calls ~~one said outgoing telephone call~~ being answered, bridge said incoming call with said answered outgoing call.

15. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 14 comprising ~~containing~~ computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to: prior to causing said bridge, qualify a party answering said outgoing ~~telephone~~ call as a party entitled to receive said incoming call.

16. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 13 comprising ~~containing~~ computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to, where said DN is associated with a subscriber line, initiate an outgoing call to said subscriber line.

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17. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 13 comprising ~~containing~~ computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to access said database and locate ~~initiate by accessing a database for a record corresponding with said DN and locating said one or more forwarding numbers each forwarding number~~ in said record.

18. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 17 comprising ~~containing~~ computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to, where none of said one or more outgoing calls is answered within a predetermined time, access said record for an action to take in respect of said incoming call.

19. (Original) The medium of claim 18 wherein said action is forwarding to voice mail and, in response, forwarding said incoming call to voice mail.

20. (Original) The medium of claim 15 wherein said party is qualified by requesting an input from said party.

B) 21. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 20 wherein said one or more outgoing calls are initiated by accessing said database and locating said one or more forwarding numbers a ~~database for a record corresponding with said DN and locating each forwarding number in said~~ record and wherein said input is compared with an entry in said record.

AT 22. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 15 comprising ~~containing~~ computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to, where said party answering fails to qualify, bridge said incoming call with a voice mail box associated with said DN.

23. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 13 comprising ~~containing~~ computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a telephone system, cause said processor to, where none of said one or more outgoing calls is answered within a predetermined time, bridge said incoming call with a voice mail box associated with said DN.
